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*Coulter and Thompson.*

No doubt this gradual change, produced by an attempted adaptation to climate and surroundings, will account for many of the very nearly related species and varieties in North America and the Eastern Continent." P. 273.

"Hence we must conclude that our North American flora has originated in the far North, and once flourished around the North Pole; that it was driven south by the cold of the glacial epoch," etc. P. 274.

*James.*

return to the north, at the close of the glacial epoch." P. 57.

[I conclude] "2nd. That the species of plants common to Europe and America have had a common origin in the land about the North Pole.

"3d. That they have migrated south on account of the cold in the Arctic regions," etc. P. 67.

These passages will give an idea of the similarity in thought between the two articles. There is no reference in any place to my article, although the authors must have had it before them. I submit that it is only fair to refer to an article from which so many ideas have been gleaned.—*Joseph F. James, Miami University, Oxford, O., October 10, 1887.*

*Ridgway's Manual of Ornithology.*<sup>1</sup>—In this book we have the result of the knowledge of one of our first ornithologists, Mr. Robert Ridgway, brought fully up to date. No one is more competent for the task, and the student as well as the sportsman may rely implicitly on the statements contained in this book. The descriptions are all arranged in key form. This method is adapted to the presentation of brief definitions, especially those of the higher groups. When it comes to the presentation of the numerous characters of species it becomes awkward from a typographical point of view, and we fancy from the appearance it gives this volume that it will not replace the usual full paragraph form of description for species. In the keys of genera we observe with gratification that definitions are rarely based on color characters. The nomenclature is also thoroughly cleared up, and the results are a warning to all careless renamers. We regret, however, to observe that the author adheres to the practice of giving two identical names to a species, when the species name has been adopted for that of a genus. The result is a tautological absurdity. The references to exotic ornithology are one of the valuable features of the book.

*Synopsis of the Flora of the Laramie Group.*<sup>2</sup>—In this important paper Mr. Ward gives a general view of the subject in question, which embraces a total of 1540 species. "Of these

<sup>1</sup> A Manual of North American Birds, by Robert Ridgway. Illustrated by four hundred and sixty-four outline drawings of generic characters. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1887.

<sup>2</sup> From the Annual Report U. S. Geol. Survey of the Territories, 1886, p. 400. By Lester F. Ward.